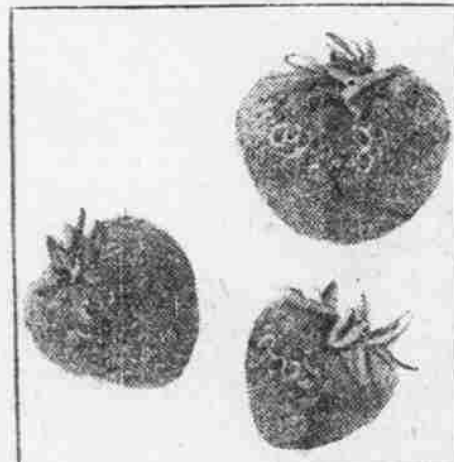


Strawberry bed, properly mulched for the winter, Kentucky Agricultural Station Farm.

STRAWBERRY THE FRUIT FOR MASSES IS EASILY CULTIVATED

Strange That Fruit That Adapts Itself To Varying Conditions of Climate and Soil Is Not More Generally Grown In a Commercial Or Amateur Way

The strawberry is the fruit for the masses. It is often called the cosmopolitan fruit, because it so readily adapts itself to varying conditions of soil and climate. It is rather strange that a plant so comparatively free from disease, so easily cultivated, and so reliable, is not grown more both in a commercial way and in an amateur way for the home. It has been estimated that only one farm home in thirty is supplied with the delicious fruit. Kentucky is admirably located geographically for producing berries on a large commercial scale. Located, as it is, between the North and the South, the berries ripen just after the Southern crop is over and before the bulk of the Northern crop is ready for market.



Aroma—A popular Kentucky berry.

Strawberries are not exacting when it comes to soils. This fruit requires a great deal of moisture, but it never should be planted on land that does not drain well, because, like all other fruits, it is very impatient of "wet feet." In general, early kinds seem to do better on a light soil, while the later varieties attain a higher degree of perfection on a somewhat heavier type of soil. In planting out a bed avoid land that has recently been in sod. It is better to plant on land that has been in cultivation for a season or two, because sod land is very likely to be infested with the larva of the white grub. This worm lives upon the root of the plants and oftentimes a great deal of harm is done before the cause is known.

Planting may be done in the fall or spring with successful results, but one year with another spring planting appears to be better. Distances for planting vary in different sections. In general the rows are placed about three feet apart and the plants are usually set eighteen inches apart in the row.

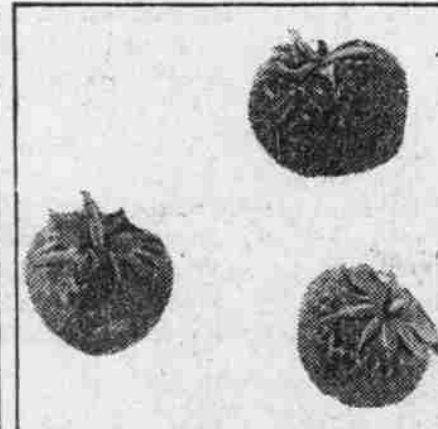
If the space is limited and berries are desired for home use the "hill system" is used. If this plan is followed, the individual plants are placed close together and all the runners are kept cut back. For all general purposes the narrow matted row system is used. If this system is followed, one should plan to get a matted row of plants twelve to fifteen inches wide, with the individual plants about five or six inches apart.

When the plants are ready to set the roots should be shortened and covered with mud or wrapped in a damp cloth. In planting see that the earth is placed firmly about the roots and that the crown is level with the surface of the ground. It is a very good plan to pinch off all but two or three of the older leaves, in order to lessen evaporation of moisture. Keep all blossoms down the first season.

During the month of December the bed should be covered with a mulch of clean straw or leaves. It is a good plan to apply the mulch just after a frost or heavy snow, because this will have a tendency to hold the blossoms back in the spring and lessen the danger of loss by frost. In spring, after the growth starts, the mulch may be loosened where it is too heavy for the plants to push through. The mulch should be left on until after the fruiting season.

At the close of the fruiting season the old bed should be cut over with a scythe or mowing machine. Let the leaves remain for a day or so, until they dry, then burn them. After this, take a small plow and turn the land between the rows, leaving only six or eight inches of the old row, and harrow the land in the same manner as outlined for the first season.

Very often growers are disappointed because their beds refuse to bear fruit. The plants are thrifty, and in the spring they blossom well. Men who are making a business of strawberry growing know that there are perfect and imperfect varieties. The perfect will bear anywhere, but the imperfect varieties need some of the perfect kinds planted near them, in order to insure fertilization.



Klondike—An early ripening market berry.

Varieties differ so widely in different sections that it is hard to recommend any certain list. It is best to follow the advice of your nearest reliable nursery, because they usually are in a position to know what varieties succeed under their soil conditions. Tennessee Prolific, Gandy, Sample, Haverland, and Aroma succeed well throughout Kentucky. Tennessee Prolific, Gandy and Aroma are perfect varieties, while Haverland and Sample are imperfect. J. H. CARMODY, Department of Horticulture, Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.

DAIRYMEN AND FARMERS MUST RAISE MORE DAIRY COWS

(W. D. Nicholls, Dairy Department, Kentucky College of Agriculture.)

Our attention has been frequently directed to that class of milk producers living near the outskirts of large cities who follow the practice of buying cows when fresh, feeding them until they no longer give a profitable amount of milk, at which time they have become fat and then selling them for beef. Not only has this been the practice of city dairymen but in sections more remote from the city many dairymen have depended largely on buying their cows. Many have even gone so far as to depend entirely upon purchased cows to supply their dairy. They have been encouraged in this by the high price of veal calves, and have gone to the extreme of selling off all calves, both heifers and bulls, and making no attempt whatever to raise their own milk cows. In the last few years this plan has proven profitable because beef prices were so high and fat milk cows sold for as much or more than the same cows when fresh, frequently bringing as much as 7½ to 8 cents per pound.

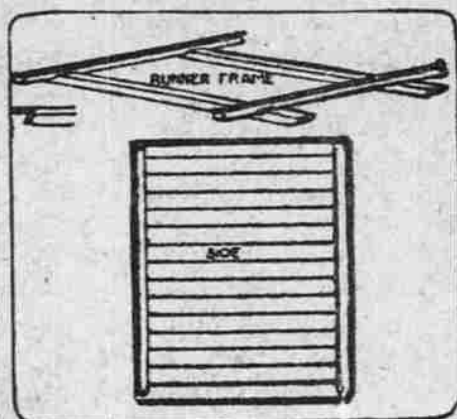
While during the past this plan has worked well, we believe that many farmers will be forced to discontinue the practice, because of the essential weakness of the system which requires that all cows, however good, go to the butcher after serving one year in the dairy, this meaning the slaughter of thousands of good dairy cows and a consequent shortage in the supply. Cows of average quality or even rather inferior grade cows are bringing from \$60 to \$100 each. Ten years ago such cows sold freely at less than one-half the present prices. This means that raising milk cows is at present a very profitable business and many stockmen will undoubtedly show their wisdom by taking advantage of the opportunity thereby afforded and will raise a few good young dairy heifers each year. Not only is the raising of such stock profitable at the present time, but the best posted stockmen predict that it will continue so for a good many years to come.

CHEAP COLONY HOUSES

Coops May Be Moved at Will by Aid of Runners.

If Floor Space, Six by Six, Is Provided Room May Be Had for Accommodation of Fifty Fowls Without Any Crowding.

A considerable saving of lumber can be made by using knock-down poultry coops and colony houses. Herewith is an illustration of a knock-

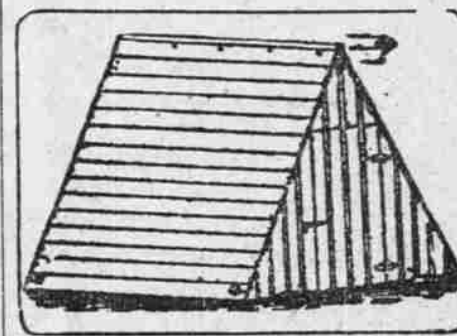


Runner Frame and Side.

down colony house. This may be made of any convenient size.

In construction two runners with notches near their ends are laid down and two cross pieces, also notched, are screwed or bolted to them, says the Orange Judd Farmer. The runners are provided so the house may be hauled from place to place. The cross pieces are to support the side walls. At the ends are bolts which run through the side wall, to which they are fastened by nuts and washers. The ridgepole is fastened to the sides by bolts also. The same with the ends, which are made triangular, as shown.

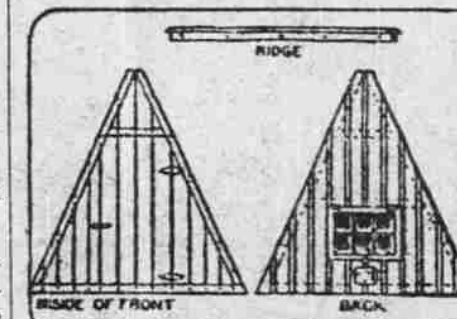
As these houses are intended only for summer use, they may be built of comparatively light material, with clapboarding for the sides and ship lap or matched stuff for the ends. It is desirable that not more than



Colony House Complete.

50 chickens be kept in one colony house and that each flock have a grass plot of at least 1,000 square feet unless they can have free range.

These houses are also useful to shelter brooders in the early part of the season. If the houses have a floor space six by six they will each accommodate 50 chicks without crowding, and when the chicks are old enough to do without the brooder they can be allowed to range from the house itself, thus becoming accustomed to their quarters from the very first. A convenient size for the house illustrated is six by six on the floor and seven feet to the peak. These allow a man to stand up inside and to attend to the brooder and chicks without inconvenience. They can be built of odds and ends of material, but if new material must be bought and if



Ends and Ridge House.

the house is painted as it should be, it would cost about \$5. If unbolted and stored under cover, as they should be, such houses should last for many years, so the first cost would be insignificant compared with the life of the houses themselves.

The Poultry Beginner.

By buying a pen of fowls in the fall you have an opportunity to get some strictly fresh eggs from your own hens during the winter months, when such eggs are difficult to purchase. To be rewarded with some nice eggs within a short time of starting to keep poultry is encouraging enough to the average beginner to spur him on in the work he has undertaken, not to mention the possibilities of immediate profits from the little flock. Encouragement is what a beginner needs—something to show for the work and time put into the enterprise.

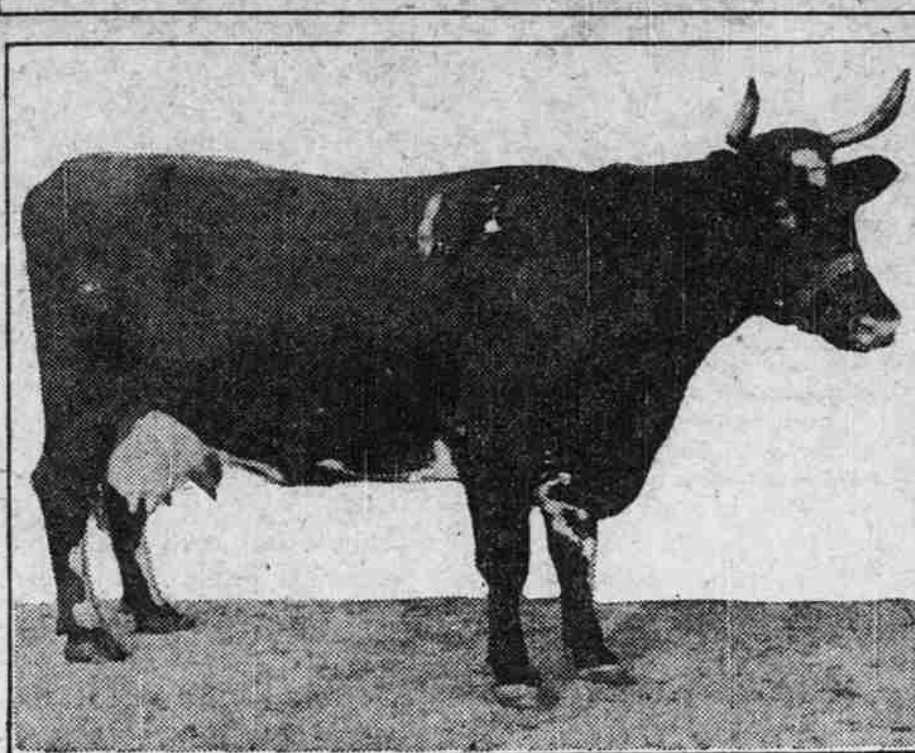
Cleanliness Insures Health.

Health is a thing essential in the flock, and to insure health keep the poultry house clean and use lime freely both in the house and all about the yard and runs. It will pay to be liberal in the use of lime. It is also important to have plenty of sunshine in the house.

Fall Hatched Chicks.

Fall hatched chicks require more care than summer ones. They are apt to take cold on frosty mornings and chilly days. Give them a warm place to roost and keep in until after the chill is gone in the morning.

SOME ADVANTAGES OF WINTER SEPARATOR



A Good Type of Dairy Cow.

(By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.)

Many who grant that the separator is useful in the summer, do not fully realize that it is just as useful in the winter time.

In fact where there is a quantity of milk to handle, it is in some respects even more of a necessity.

Milk has, of course, many points which require especial attention during the cold weather, and to adjust these seems to be the special mission of the separator.

Almost everyone who complains during the cold weather that the cream does not rise properly, has seen directions to obviate this by heating on the range almost to the scalding point when the milk is first strained.

Some have tried this with success, and well know that it means more hard work and butter money under such conditions is surely earned. Yet, where the milk is obtained in large quantities this method would be out of the question without special facilities.

The separator asks no special favors, and the cream must separate when it gets to work. The process is equally thorough and easy in zero weather, or when the mercury is traveling around among the nineties.

Also, the cream will be of the same uniform quality day after day. There is no danger of being compelled to churn for hours just because the butter refuses to come, which is usually the result of slow gathering of the condition lessened when all the cream is bound to come, and that at the proper time.

The mixing of too much milk with the cream, the cream-gauge arranges perfectly.

Butter made from a separated cream is uniform in quality. There is no need of an apology because the cream was a little thin or that, for where only the cream and not the milk must be kept at a certain temperature, the work is easily done.

To keep the milk for hours at the most favorable temperature might mean great inconvenience in the household, but the smaller cream jar

may be placed near the kitchen range and thus easily kept at the desired temperature, without being very much in the way.

While it goes without saying that more butter is obtained because all the cream is taken from the milk and kept in the best condition, it is equally true that the product is uniformly good. There is no variation.

In this way, if you can please a customer one day, you can please him the next, and this he soon discovers and asks for your butter. Then, the dealer who handles your butter soon learns to guarantee it. He can sell it for better price than the ordinary butter, and since the last bit of gain is all gain, the profits are thus very materially increased.

If you still wish to send the products away to be manufactured, the load to be hauled over bad roads is very greatly lessened. Usually it is not necessarily delivered so often; and in the colder weather, when there is danger of freezing in transit, the small can is again more easily managed.

The advantage of having the farm skim milk to feed to the stock is of two fold value. The chilled milk which is sure to come back from the creamery being in no way equal in feeding value to the fresh milk, which even if reheated, still lacks in value, while it is increased in cost of production.

At every turn there is an independence gained, and this is one of the great things to the farmer. The more he can plan to do his work, independent of others and the weather, the less will be the friction, the more complete the satisfaction.

It is at the last end of the process, however, that the real profit stands out. There are expenses connected with dairying, heavy ones, and after these are met, the rest is gain. There is not a fixed percentage of profit on the whole.

Legitimate cost must come out, no matter what the receipts, and the more we can save at the last end of the process, the greater will be the pure gain.

COTTON PICKERS SAVE TIME

Pneumatic Machine, Invented by Ohio Man, Separates Boll From Pod—Much Labor Saved.

Now it is cotton picking toward which the vacuum principle has been directed. An Ohio man has invented a pneumatic machine which seems to be entirely practical and a great time-saver. An apparatus to create suction is mounted on the rear of a truck and in front is a wire cage to hold the cotton. A tube leading from



New Cotton Picker.

the suction apparatus has a set of teeth in its bell-shaped mouth, so that after the boll has entered the mouth it will not withdraw, but will be sucked into the tube and through the latter into the cage. It is a much swifter and neater operation than picking cotton by hand, and two or three men can pick a field quicker with it than a small army of negroes could do the work unaided.

Alfalfa Hay for Cows.

Because of the high protein content, alfalfa is especially valuable as a feed for dairy cows, for breeding animals and for growing young stock. It is of considerable economic value when grown and fed on the farm, as it takes the place of high-priced protein-rich concentrates, such as bran and cottonseed meal. It is more economical, under most conditions at least, to feed it as a part ration either with corn or some carbohydrate roughage, as corn stover or grass hay, rather than to feed it alone.

FEEDING PEANUTS TO SWINE

Hay Will Run From One-Half to One Ton Per Acre and Is Almost Equal to Alfalfa in Value.

Dry weather and hot winds will have no terror for the Oklahoma farmer who adopts the motto of "Pigs and Peanuts."

The drought this season has demonstrated, says the Duncan Eagle, that peanuts will thrive better during the dry, hot season than even kafir corn, and the peanuts have a still further advantage in having far greater food value than either corn or kafir.

The highest priced pork on the market, says the Oklahoma Farmer, is from the peanut-fed hogs, and the ham from peanut-fed hogs brings from 10 to 15 cents a pound more than the ham from corn-fed hogs.

The peanut hay will run from one-half to one ton to the acre, and is almost the equal of alfalfa in feed value. Farmers who raise peanuts and hogs can have the hogs harvest the crop if they desire, or they can put the peanuts, vine and all, with a little corn or kafir into a silo, which makes a richer silage than either alone. Thousands of farmers in Oklahoma need to adopt the motto of "Pigs and Peanuts."

The time to plan a pig and peanut campaign is now. Splendid seed peanuts will be offered for sale soon, and the farmer of Oklahoma who selects high-class nuts for seed will be ready in the spring to plant a crop that never fails in Oklahoma.

Use of Fertilizers.

The use of commercial fertilizers is becoming more general among fruit growers, due largely to the fact that stable manure is somewhat scarce in many fruit growing districts. In order to get the best results from the use of fertilizers, the grower must study his soil, and by observing the results obtained from experimental application he will soon know the requirements of his soil. Commercial fertilizers are expensive, and require intelligent handling. Many growers have, without sufficient cause, condemned their use, while others, after studying their soil conditions, are securing excellent returns for the money invested.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR JANUARY 25

SERVING JESUS.

LESSON TEXT—Luke 8:1-3; 9:57-62; 10:38-42.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even the least, ye did it unto me."—Matt. 25:40.

The first section of our lesson text has no connection with the other two. It is taken from a time several months previous to the time of the Perean ministry and was undoubtedly chosen as an indication of the company who traveled with Jesus and his disciples, and who provided for his needs. We must remember that Jesus was not supported by a board, a church, nor by some philanthropically inclined fellow citizen. It is to the second two sections therefore that we devote our chief attention.

Different Classes.

1. Those who would follow Jesus, 9:57-62. Read carefully Matt. 8:19-22. Three different classes are here represented: (1) The impulsive follower (v. 57, 58). This is the man who is moved by a sudden desire to accompany this marvelous Teacher, but like the man in the parable, does not sit down and count the cost ere he starts to build his house. This thought is emphasized when we read (Matt. 8:19) that this man was a scribe, one who would not be expected to make such a resolve. He must have been deeply stirred by what he had seen and heard in the life of Jesus. Such a resolve promised well, but it is soon revealed to him that he did not realize what was involved in his promise (v. 58). Jesus showed the man that to go "whithersoever" with him means to share his experiences, his fare, his quarters, and to receive the same treatment he received, 2 Tim. 3:12. It is a mistake to tell folk that the road of righteousness is a primrose path. The road of disobedience is a rough one, as the man who went to Jericho found, still the road of righteousness is a narrow one, Matt. 7:13, 14. Every follower of Jesus must be willing to take what he took, and to receive what he received, John 15:20; 1 Pet. 2:21.

This sentence (v. 58) has done more to give us a comprehension of the earthly surroundings of our Lord than any other in the gospels, 2 Cor. 8:9. (2) The procrastinating follower (v. 59). Jesus did not forbid the first man, he simply showed him what was involved. This man, however, Jesus invited to a place as disciple—learner. That he was willing to accept is evident, only he was not yet quite ready, "I will, but—" It is not at all probable that this man's father was awaiting burial; had his father but just died, and awaiting burial, Jesus would not have prevented. Rather he was indicating a father about to die and that he would follow after his father's death. Hence the sharp words of the Master, "Let the dead bury the dead." A proper duty, a sacred duty, but not so proper nor so sacred as to have precedence over the claims of Jesus, Matt. 6:33; 10:37.

Ever Ready to Serve.

10:38-42. We now turn to consider this little company who were ever ready to serve our Master. From v. 58 we know that not every home was open to receive Jesus as was this one in Bethany, John 11:1. Though this was Martha's home (10:38), and therefore she felt the burden of hospitality, yet she did not hear the word as did her sister Mary, Mark 4:19. Martha was occupied with duty and Mary with Jesus. Martha was occupied with many things, Mary was occupied with the "one thing needful." The result was that Martha was "distracted" (R. V.), while Mary was at rest. Jesus wants his disciples, his followers, to sit at his feet and to learn of him. He knows all about duty's dull demand, but the one thing needful is, first of all, to learn of him. Martha's love prompted the service, but there was doubtless much pride that accompanied it. Jesus, as we have seen, was not cumbered with much comfort, and it is doubtful that he was desirous of a big dinner. Jesus does, however, commend communion with himself as being, "that good part." Afterwards, when death invaded that circle, it was Martha that had the most intimate dealing with our Lord, see John, chapter 11, hence we conclude that she learned on this day the lesson Jesus sought to teach, viz., that in the life of quiet communion (Isa. 30:15) we shall receive that strength that is absolutely essential, if we are to serve him acceptably. We must not allow the daily, legitimate demands of duty to interfere with a life of full, free, fellowship with the Master.

Summary—It has never been recorded that Jesus ever complained of the hardships of life, yet he had his intimates who were glad to minister to his needs. The call to companionship with Christ, the call, "follow me," is the most stupendous program yet presented to man. The perfect disciple, as well as the ideal woman, is the one who is a blend of the divergent characters of Martha and Mary. It is at the feet of Jesus we are to receive that equipment which is necessary for effective service. "Making excuses takes much time that had better be put into 'making good.'"